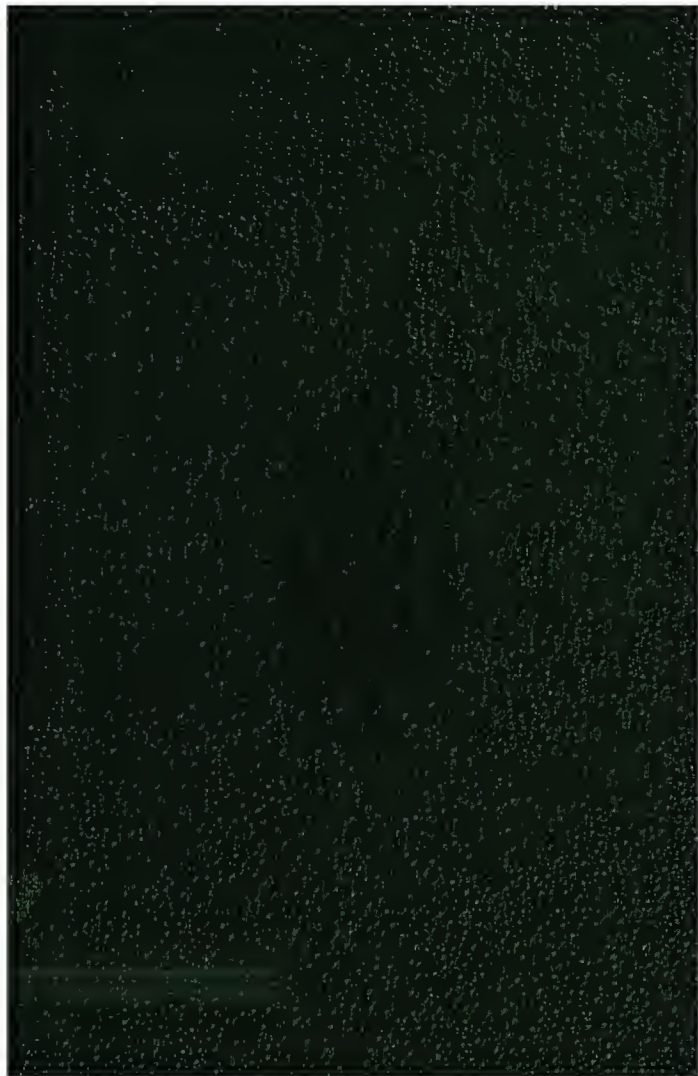
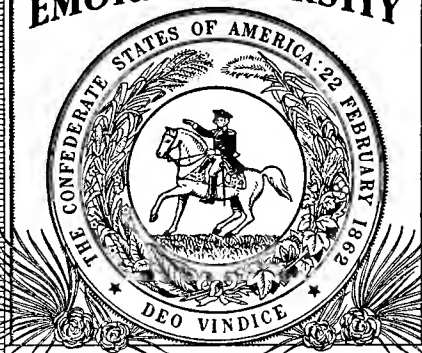






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**KEITH M. READ
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Stories about Jesus.

BY ONE WHO LOVES HIM IN GEORGIA.



Number Twelve.

NASHVILLE, TENN. :
SOUTHERN BAPTIST SABBATH-SCHOOL UNION.

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STORIES ABOUT JESUS.

♦♦ PLEASE, Mamma, tell me about Jesus."

 'T was the sweet voice of my little girl, with one arm entwined around my neck, one rosy cheek pressed close to mine. Could I refuse? And as she listened, her blue eyes grew moist with tears, and she whispered, "Mamma, I love Jesus."

Perhaps there are many other children who would gladly hear of Jesus, the blessed Savior, that they too may love him, and for them will I write the stories my darling loves to heart.

Far, far away, in the land of Palestine, near the city of Bethlehem, some poor men

sat at night on the cold ground to watch their sheep, lest the wolves should come and kill them, or they should wander off and be lost. Perhaps they looked up at bright stars above them, and thought of him who placed them there, or it may be that they talked about the long-expected, long-promised Messiah, who should come to deliver their nation, and reign on the throne of David, their long-lost king, and it may be, with sad forebodings, they wondered if he would come while they lived, and whether such poor men as they should be permitted to see him, and offer him their humble gifts and praises. But while they talked, a glad surprise awaited them; for although humble and despised on earth, they were known in heaven, and God chose to greatly honor them, by sending a messenger with glorious news, not to the king, or the rich, or learned, or proud rulers and nobles, but directly to these poor shepherds. "And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone

round about them, and they were very much afraid; but the angel said, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. The Savior is born—Christ the Lord has come—ye shall find the babe wrapped in clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly a multitude (a great many) of angels joined in singing the sweetest song ever heard on earth, “Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will to men.” Never had new-born babe so glorious an anthem to make known his birth, surely for none other than the Son of God would those bright angels have left the joys of heaven to sing for mortal ears of that joy with which heaven was full of praise. When the angels had gone back to heaven, the glad shepherds said, Let us go to Bethlehem and see this babe of whom the angels sang to us; and they made haste to reach the city, that they might find and adore their new-born king.

Where do you think they found him?

“O, in a fine house, asleep in a nice little cradle bed, all soft and warm, while his ma rocked him and sang to him.” No, my child, they found him, the blessed infant Jesus, in a poor stable on the hillside, only some straw for his bed, some cattle, perhaps, standing by, and the humble Mary and her husband watching the slumbers of the long-promised Savior.

He was the *Lord* of all the earth, yet he took the lowest place, and had for friends and companions the poorest of his people. He had made the world and all things by his own power, but now he was a helpless babe, for he had humbled himself to take our nature, and become in truth a man, while at the same time he was the Son of God, who had ever lived with him in heaven and shared his power and glory. “He was the Wonderful, the Counsel, or the mighty God, the Everlasting father, the Prince of Peace.” Who, feeble and helpless as he then appeared in that dark manger, had left all his glory in heaven, and had come to “save

his people from their sins.” But why did he come to live with such a poor woman as Mary? Couldn’t he have been rich and had a good house to sleep in? He could if it had been best, but “Though he *was* rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might become rich.” There is more in this than my little girl can now understand, but when you are older you may know what it means, and love him all the better because he became so poor for us, and, my dear child, whenever discontented feelings arise in your little heart, and you are disposed to fret, because you can not have all that you wish, remember that all you have, your clothes, and food and toys, and books, are far better than the dear Savior had when he was a little child like you; and pray to him to forgive your ingratitude, and make you contented and happy.

“Did the angels tell anybody else that the Savior had come?” Not then, but a bright star appeared to some wise men, far

away in the East, and they knew it was a sign that the great king, whom the Jews were expecting, had been born, and they joyfully hastened to follow the rays of the beautiful new star; that they might find and worship him.

“Did they find him?” Yes, they came to Jerusalem, the capital of the country, asking for him, but how surprised were they when no one there could tell them where their new-born king might be adored.

After diligent search, they learned that the holy prophets had long before written that the Messiah should be born in Bethlehem; then they hastened thither, and lo, the same bright star which they had followed from their own country, went before them until it stood over where the young child was, then they went in, and when they saw him and his mother, they fell down on their faces and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures, and gave an offering of their gold and precious things,

a token of their homage and reverence to the infant king.

“I would give him some too.” Give him your affections, love him with all your heart, then you will cheerfully obey his will, and that is a more acceptable offering to Jesus than would be all the gold of California, if it were yours to give.



THE BABE IN THE TEMPLE.

“**W**HAT was the temple, mamma?” The temple was a large and splendid house, where people went to worship God. Every morning and evening a lamb was killed, its blood poured out, and body burnt on an altar, or kind of table, to show that sinners deserved death, and could not be forgiven, without the shedding of blood. Every one who went to the temple to worship, carried a bird, or a lamb, or kid, when they felt their need of forgiveness from God, which the priest slew and offered for their sins.

“We do not worship that way.” No, for Jesus came and gave his own precious blood to take away our sins, so that instead of taking other blood we may think of his, and God, for his sake, will forgive all our sins when we repent of them and forsake them all. When Mary and Joseph her husband carried the infant Jesus to the tem-

ple, they could not buy a lamb, so she carried two pigeons ; and while they were in the temple, a good old man, named Simeon, came in, and taking the babe in his arms, he praised God, and said, "Lord now let thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation," and he rejoiced greatly, for it had been revealed (made known) to him that he should live to see the Lord Christ who was to save his people from their sins ; he had waited and hoped to see him, and now that he had seen and held in his own arms the wonderful child, he felt quite willing to die. There was also an aged woman, named Anna, who was very pious, serving God in the temple day and night, who came in at the same time, and knew, and rejoiced over the babe Jesus. She blessed his mother too, and told her (for she was a prophetess) some things about her son which she could not then understand, but Mary remembered them all. Anna told others also about Jesus, as the Savior who had come.

“Did they come to see him? And were they very glad, too?” I suppose not, as the Bible does not say so. The Jews were very proud, and wished their Savior to be a great king, and not, as they supposed Jesus to be, only a poor carpenter’s son. And although they could not but be greatly astonished at the wonderful stories they heard about this infant, very few cared to own him for their Messiah, or even to take the pains to seek him out and inquire if what they heard was true. ’Twas very strange, but not more so than the indifference we can see every Sabbath, when our pastor tells of the love of Jesus, how he died to save guilty, ruined sinners, and children, and even men and women, listen to him, but do not at all care. Think of this, my dear child.

“What became of the wise men, mamma?”

“They went back to their own homes, but not through Jerusalem, to tell the king where the young child was to whom they had been led by the Star; for the king who

was very wicked and cruel, pretended to be anxious to find the babe, that he too might worship him, but he only wanted to know where he was, to kill him. God warned the wise men of this, and they went home another way. Herod, the wicked king, waited very anxiously for them to return with the news, but when he found they would not obey him, he became very angry, and sent some of his soldiers, (men, whose business it is to kill)—he sent some of these cruel men to Bethlehem, and they killed every male child they could find! “O the wicked men, how could they take dear, little babies from their mothers and kill them?”

“Did they find poor Mary and her babe in the old stable?”

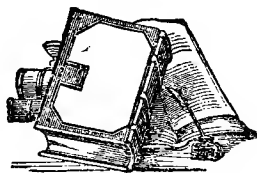
“No; when the wise men had left them, and they had gone to sleep, a good angel came to tell Joseph what Herod would do, and told him to take Mary and her son, and hasten to Egypt, a distant country, where Herod could not find them.”

“Did he mind the angel?”

“Yes. He did not say it was too far, or too much trouble, or that he was poor and could not afford to make such a long journey, but he arose immediately and took Mary and Jesus, and started; he did not even wait till morning. That is the way God would have *us* obey him; when we know what He wishes us to do, we must do it at once, and not stop to think whether we will do that or something else.”

“Will God send an angel to tell us what to do?”

“No, my dear, for he has given us the Bible, and we can learn from that how to please Him, and how to secure an eternal life with Him in heaven.”



THE RETURN FROM EGYPT.

WHEN Herod, that cruel king was dead, and he died miserably too, for he was punished for his wickedness, even in this world, God sent the angel as he had promised, to let Joseph know that he might safely return to his own home with the “young child;” but even then Joseph was afraid to go to Jerusalem, so he turned aside into Galilee, and stopped in the city of Nazareth. When you are a little older and can read all of the Bible, you will be surprised to find that the holy prophets who wrote hundreds of years before, had written that all these things should happen just as they did, for God had told them, how his Son would come into the world, and how he should be treated.

THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS.

THE city of Nazareth, where the holy child lived, was about one hundred miles from Jerusalem, situated in a delightful valley, with high, rocky hills around it, and not far off the Sea of Galilee, where some of his miraeles were performed. The Scriptures do not tell us much about this holy child, but we know that he lived there with his supposed parents, brothers and sisters, and doubtless ate, drank, slept, and played with other children; ran about the fields and groves; plucked the sweet wild flowers, and listened to the singing birds; climbed the hills and looked down on the bright waters of the beautiful lakes and rivers; just like other children, and yet he was different from all other children that ever lived, for he was perfectly holy. No angry passions ever darkened his brow, no sinful words ever came from his lips; no wicked or evil thoughts dwelt in his heart

Doubtless he played with his brothers and sisters, but we know that he never quarreled with them, never lifted his hand to strike a blow, never spoke to them an unkind word, for he was pure and holy on earth as he was when he had lived in heaven, in the bosom of God, his father.

“Did the other children ever take his things, or treat him unkindly?”

Perhaps they did often, for they had sinful natures; but he still loved them, still felt and acted right; he might be grieved at their conduct, and I do not doubt but he often prayed to his Father in heaven for them. He suffered from sickness, fatigue, and want, but he never murmured, never complained; for he had cheerfully left his throne and crown in heaven, where all the angels delighted to praise and serve him, that he might become a babe, and grow up to be a man, subject to all the infirmities and sufferings of human beings, except sin, that he knew not, for he only, of all that

ever lived on earth, perfectly obeyed all the commandments of God.

O, I want to be like Jesus,
That pure and holy child,
Whose heart, and life, and actions
Were ne'er by sin defiled,
O! blessed Jesus, hear me;
Come dwell within my heart,
Drive every evil from it,
And never thence depart!

O, let me too, be *like* thee,
A gentle, lovely child;
With thoughts, and wishes holy,
And every action mild.
O! make me too obedient,
Faithful, and kind, and true,
And always love and praise thee,
As the happy angels do



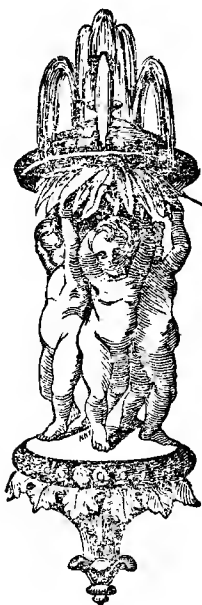
THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE.

HEN Jesus was about twelve years old, he went with his parents to keep the Passover at Jerusalem. This was a sacred feast observed every year, in grateful remembrance of their happy deliverance from a cruel bondage, when the destroying angel passed over the land of Goshen, where the Hebrews were, and hurt no one, but entered every house in Egypt and killed every first-born there, in one night! Therefore once a year, at a stated time every Jew, or Hebrew, as they were sometimes called, went to the Temple at Jerusalem to spend one week—there serving and praising God. When the feast was over, Joseph and Mary, with their friends and neighbors, all started home, but Jesus stayed behind in the temple. His parents did not know it, but supposed that he was somewhere in the company, for there were a great many people on the road, but after the day's journey they

looked for him at night, when they were going to eat supper perhaps, and asked all their kindred and acquaintances if they had seen him, or knew where he was. But alas! poor Mary could hear nothing of her precious child. No one had seen him; he was lost! O what a sad night that was to the bereaved parents, and more sad to Mary than any other she had ever known. Any mother who has lost a child suffers a great deal. But no mother had ever lost such a son as hers, so good, so obedient, so affectionate. How could she bear the thought that he was lost? They hastened back to the city, seeking diligently everywhere, and inquiring of all they met for their son Jesus. On the third day they found him. O! what joy! Not at play with the children, but sitting in the Temple, with the learned men, hearing them talk and asking questions; so that all who heard him were astonished by his wisdom, and marvelous understanding. His parents were greatly surprised to find their child

in such company, and his mother said, "Son why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing?" Then Jesus said, "How is it that ye sought me, did you not know that I must be about my father's business?" They did not understand what he meant, though his mother kept the saying in her heart. Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents, and was subject unto them, he, the wise boy, who could sit with the Doctors in the Temple and instruct them too, he went to the humble home of his earth mother; *obeyed* and honored her, devoted himself to her service! Think of this, my dear child, when tempted to disobey *your* mother, and rebel against her authority. Remember that the Son of God, the Lord of glory, whom angels worshiped, obeyed and loved his mother. Think of him and try to do as he did. He knew that Joseph was only his supposed father, yet he revered and obeyed him as a son—labored with him as he became strong enough, I suppose; for

Joseph was a poor carpenter, and had to work hard enough to support his family, and a good son always loves to help his parents. "And Jesus grew, increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.

ABOUT eighteen years of our Savior's life are passed silently by; nothing more is told us of what he did, from the time he returned to Nazareth with his parents until he began to be about thirty years old. It seems to us a long time for him to wait, when at *twelve* he had seemed anxious to be about his Father's business; but the time for him to begin his public ministry had not fully come. We are told that "he learned patience by the things he suffered;" and it may be that this long waiting was one of the things he suffered, for we often find it very hard indeed to wait patiently. But when about thirty years old, he went from Galilee to the river Jordan, where a holy man, who had been sent by God to prepare the way, and make known the coming and character of the Messiah, was preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. He was a strange man,

wearing a long robe or mantel of camels' hair, and a leather belt; he lived mostly in the wilderness, eating the locusts and wild honey that he found there. His name was John, so named by the angel before his birth. Great numbers of people came out to hear him preach; they came from Jerusalem, and all the cities round about. He told them to repent, for the kingdom of heaven was at hand; therefore they should repent, and forsake their sins, and be prepared to meet and honor their king at his coming; and when they repented, he baptized them in the clear, bright waters down in the river Jordan. Some of the people who heard him preach, thought surely this must be our Messiah; but when they asked John, he told them he was only the messenger or forerunner, going before the great *One* who was to come, to let them know that he was near. John was very humble; he was unworthy even to untie the shoes of the Savior; he felt humble and lowly, but God had highly honored him. Thus

we read in the Bible that God resisteth the proud, and bringeth them down, but he exalteth and giveth grace to the meek and the humble. While John was talking of Jesus, he saw him coming, and pointing him out to the people, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." While John was baptizing in Jordan, Jesus came to be baptized also; but John at first refused; he thought he should receive baptism from Jesus. Then Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John did as the Savior desired. What a solemn and impressive scene was this! There lay the river—its glistening waters dancing in the sunlight; the vast multitudes from all the surrounding country lining the banks of the stream, silently, anxiously listening, and looking at the holy man sent from God, who stood at the edge of the water, ready to baptize his Lord. But not only on earth were there anxious spectators of this great and glorious scene, which

marked the beginning of the great work the Savior came to do. The inhabitants of heaven beheld with wonder; even God himself looked down, delighted with the obedience of his Son; for when Jesus was baptized, he went up straightway out of the water; and lo! the heavens were opened unto him, and the Spirit of God, like a dove, coming down and lighting upon him, and lo! a voice from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!" Jesus had not sinned, therefore did not have to repent as did others whom John baptized; but he requires all who believe on him to be baptized, showing their submission to his authority, and willingness to obey him in all things. Jesus required nothing of his followers that he would not himself do first. He went down into the baptismal stream to show believers on him how to be baptized, and all who follow him to be buried by baptism in the watery grave, show to the wicked world in which they live that they have forsaken all sinful

pleasures and pursuits; have given themselves up to Christ, to love and honor, and obey him; joined themselves to his people (his church) to live only for his service; and to die, rejoicing in hope of a glorious resurrection, to live and reign with him forever.



THE MARRIAGE AT CANA.

THE first miracle Jesus did was at Cana, a city not far from Nazareth, whither he had been invited with his few disciples to a wedding feast. His mother was there too ; and when the wine was all gone, and there was not enough for all the people, his mother told him of it ; perhaps she thought he could provide some. Jesus did not say that he would, but she bade the servants do whatever he should tell them ; and by and by he commanded the servants to draw water, and fill some very large stone water-pots that were there. There were six of them, and they held a great quantity of water. The servants did as he said, and when they had filled the pots full to the brim, he said, "Draw out and bear to the governor of the feast." They did so ; but what a wonderful thing was this ! The clear water they had just put in the pots was now *good wine*, better than that they

had at the beginning of the feast. A poet has said of this miracle, "The conscious water saw its God and blushed." None but the Son of God, possessing his Father's power, could have done such a wonderful thing, and those disciples who were with him knew it, and believed on him.



THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

“**W**HO were his disciples?” They were men whom he chose to be with him, that he might teach them his doctrines, and, after that, be sent to preach to the people, and that they might see what he did, hear what he said, and afterward write the things which they had seen and heard for our instruction, that we too might believe on Jesus, and be saved. He did not choose great or learned men, but called to him the poor and ignorant. Two of them were the sons of Joseph, with whom he had been raised, called his brothers. After he had commenced preaching, saying, “The kingdom of God is at hand,” he was one day walking by the seaside, and saw two brothers—Simon, afterward called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting their nets into the sea for fish; but when Jesus said, “Follow me,” they left their nets immediately to follow him. Go-

ing on further, he saw a man named Zebedee in a ship, with his two sons, James and John. They were mending their nets, for they too were fishermen. When Jesus passed by them, he said to James and John, "Follow me;" and they too immediately rose up, left their nets and their father in the ship, and followed Jesus. They did not know what he wanted, or where he would lead them. This they knew: He who called them was the Son of the living God, and they willingly gave up all they had to follow him. Two of his disciples were with John the Baptist when he pointed out Jesus, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God," and they went to learn of him. He called twelve to be with him, and each one, immediately they were called, left their occupation, and followed him wherever he went. It was strange that they should obey so cheerfully, and proved his divine authority over the hearts of men.

PREACHING FROM A SHIP.

ONE day Jesus was on the beach near a lake, and as usual, the people crowded round him to hear his words. There were two ships—perhaps we would call them fishing-boats—near by, and when the multitude pressed him, he stepped into Simon's ship, and begged him to move out a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down and taught the people who stood listening on the shore. When he stopped speaking to them, he told Simon to cast out his nets for fish. But Simon was quite discouraged—for all night long they had been toiling hard, casting their nets here and there, and had taken nothing. At the word of Jesus, however, he was willing to try once more; so he threw out the net. Then immediately, when he tried to draw it up, he was astonished to find it too heavy for them—the net was breaking with so many fishes. They made signs for the other ship

to come and help them, when lo! there were enough to fill both ships, so that they began to sink.

They reached the shore in safety, and Simon, fully convinced of the divine authority and power of Jesus, left his ships and nets to follow him. And we do not suppose that he ever left him again, to pursue his former business while Jesus lived. Jesus told these humble fishermen, that he would make them "fishers of men," and their employment after this was to learn of Jesus how to preach to the people that they might teach poor sinners how to come to Christ, the blessed Savior, and find everlasting life.

When Jesus went again to Jerusalem, he found in the Temple cattle and sheep, which had been brought in there instead of a marketplace to be sold. Jesus drove them out, and reprov'd the men for thus profaning his Father's house, which should be a house of prayer; but they made it a den of thieves; and he poured out their money

and turned over their tables. No doubt these men were very much surprised at this ; for they asked “by what authority he did so?” Jesus told them to “destroy this temple, and in three days he would raise it up.” They thought he meant the house, which had been forty-six years being built ; but he meant his body, which he would raise from the dead on the third day after they should kill him. Even his disciples did not then know what he meant, but after he had risen, they remembered and believed his power.



THE VISIT OF NICODEMUS.

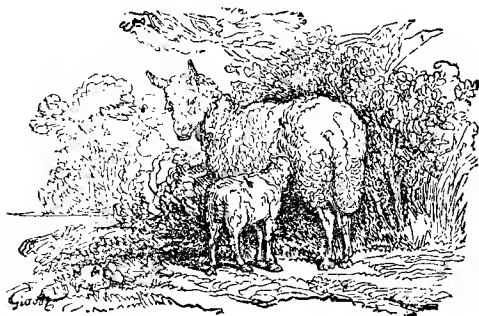
ONE night a ruler, a great man named Nicodemus, came to see Jesus. He came at night, for fear of the Jews, for not many would own him to be the Christ. Nicodemus knew that he came from God, for no man could do the things that Jesus did. Then Jesus told him that he must be "born again" before he could enter the kingdom of God; and when he did not know his meaning, Jesus told him of the love of God to poor sinful men—how he had sent his only Son into the world—that all who would believe on him might be saved—that he should be lifted up, like Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness—that all who believed on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. When Moses lifted up the serpent, some dreadful serpents had come among the people, biting them, and every one who was bitten died. When many thousands had died, God told Moses to

make one of brass like the living serpents, and put it up high where all could see it; and then those who were bitten, if they would only look at the brazen serpent, could be well immediately. So Jesus taught the ruler that, when he should have been lifted up on the cross, all who would believe on him, though they were dead in sins, should have their sins forgiven, and be permitted to enter heaven.

“Must I be born again?” If you would be a follower of Christ here, and desire to live with him and share his glories in heaven, you must become “a new creature in Christ Jesus.” This corrupt and wicked heart, which you now have, which all are born with, must be changed by the Holy Spirit, the guilt all taken away by faith in Jesus Christ, whose blood alone cleanses from all sin. Then the heart will be new—filled with love to Jesus, willing and anxious to obey him in all things, desiring only to please him. You can not change your own heart, but when you can feel how vile it is



in the sight of a holy God, and earnestly desire to be cleansed from its sin and corruption, God will send his holy Spirit to show you how to go to Jesus Christ, our only Savior, who can remove sins from the heart as far as the east is from the west; and though dark and deep as crimson, he can make it pure and white as snow.

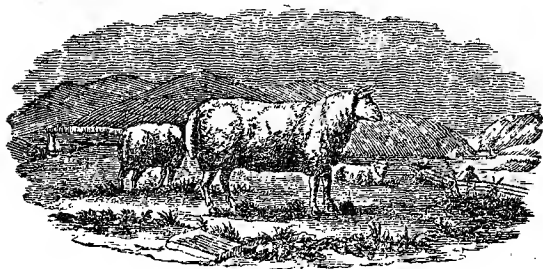


JESUS AT THE WELL.

IN one of his journeys, for he had no *home* now, Jesus sat down by a well near a city of Samaria, to rest, while his disciples went into the city to buy some bread. While he sat there, weary and hungry, waiting their return, a woman came with her pitcher for water. Jesus asked her for a drink, but she thought it very strange for a Jew to ask a drink of her, for though the Jews and Samaritans were neighbors, they had no dealings with each other, were not kind and friendly. Then Jesus told the poor woman of the water which he could give her, the grace of God, free and plenteous, like an ever-living stream, and those who drink thereof shall never die. He also told her of God, who is a spirit, and those who worship need not now go to Jerusalem or any other place; but no matter where one may be, if they

worship God in spirit and in truth, he will accept the worship and grant his blessing.

The disciples returned with the bread they went to buy, and begged him, saying, Master eat; but he told them he had bread to eat that they knew not of; and when they wondered who had given him food, he let them understand that doing his Father's will, teaching the ignorant and sinful how to be saved, was better to him than needful food. The woman went into the city and told the people of the wonderful stranger she had seen at the well. Then some of the men went out and asked him to come into their city and teach them too. He did so, and many believed on him there.



THE SICK CHILD.

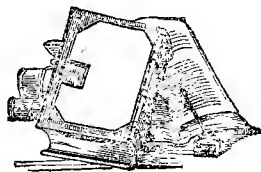
WHEN Jesus went back to Galilee, a certain nobleman of Capernaum, whose child was very sick, heard that Jesus was at Cana, where he had turned the water to wine; and he thought that *one* who could do such a wonderful thing as that was, could certainly cure his son, if he could only get him to come to his house. So the nobleman hastened to Cana, and begged Jesus to go and heal his son, for he was at the point of death; just ready to die, he was so sick. But Jesus said, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." Then the poor father, so anxious and troubled about his son, prayed him again, "Sir, come down ere my child die." Then the good Savior said, "Go thy way, thy son liveth;" and the glad father believed him and started home; but on the way his servant met him with the joyful news, that his son was well! He asked

when he began to be better, and found that at the time Jesus had said, "Thy son liveth," the fever immediately left him. Oh, what a good Physician this was! Then the happy father and all his family believed in Jesus as the Son of God.



THE SICK MAN.

ONCE when Jesus was at Capernaum, a centurion (that is, a Roman officer) came to him, saying, "My servant is at home sick of the palsy and grievously tormented;" and Jesus said, "I will go and cure him;" but the man had such strong *faith*, he did not wish him to do that; besides, he did not feel worthy of such an honor as to receive so great a person in his house. So he said, "Lord, I am not worthy thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." Jesus had not seen such faith even in Israel, so he said, "Go thy way;" and the servant was immediately cured.



AT PETER'S HOUSE.

SIMON Peter was a poor fisherman, who lived near the sea of Galilee. You will remember that I told you how Jesus had called him from his nets to follow him, and how quickly he obeyed. When Jesus went into Peter's house, it could not have been a large or fine one, probably it was only a poor hut, yet Jesus went there with him; and there lay a poor woman on the bed, sick with a fever; it was Peter's mother-in-law, his wife's mother. Jesus always pitied the sick, or suffering from any cause; he went about doing good: so he touched the sick woman's hand, and the fever left her at once, and she got up and "ministered unto them;" perhaps prepared them some food, as they had been walking, and I suppose were tired and hungry too.

We may easily imagine that a great many people would hear of these wonderful cures, and that all who heard of this strange man,

who could so easily cure the sick, would desire him to cure their sick friends too. And so they did. It was talked of all through the country, and cities and towns, and great multitudes flocked about him; wherever he went the people came in crowds, and they brought all their friends and neighbors who were sick or afflicted in any way, to Jesus; and oh, how good he was! he cured them all.

Jesus was very poor on earth—poorer than the birds, for they have nests to sleep in; but Jesus had no home, no where to lay his head; and yet he was so good, so kind, did so much to make others happy, we wonder how any one could keep from loving him and giving him the best of all that they had; yet there are a great many even now who do not and will not love this blessed Jesus, the kindest and best friend man ever had, or ever can have. Let us try every day to love him more.

THE STORM AT SEA.

SEE, there is a ship far out on the water !
Hark ! how the wind blows, and makes
the big waves rise up, like they would
swallow the ship ! There ! 't is full of wa-
ter, and must soon sink ! and then the poor
sailors will all be drowned ! Poor men !
they try hard to save their ship and their
lives ; but in such a storm as this, all they
can do will not stop the wind or keep them
from sinking. Many poor sailors are
drowned this way every year ; they sink
down to the bottom of the great deep sea,
and their friends never hear from them
again. Did these men sink ? No ; Jesus
was in that ship, and he saved them.
“How, mamma ?” He was asleep on a
pillow, somewhere in the ship ; and when
the men had done all they could, and found
that they must soon perish, they went to
Jesus and waked him up, and said, “Mas-
ter, carest thou not that we perish ? Lord

save us, or we perish." Then Jesus said, "Why are ye fearful? O ye of little faith." Then he arose and said to the raging winds, and the great rolling waves, "Be still." And they obeyed him. The winds immediately ceased to blow, the waves sunk down in the placid sea, and "there was a great calm." Well might the astonished disciples exclaim, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the seas obey him?"



ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA.

WHEN they had crossed over and were walking on the bank, a man possessed with devils—a wild, crazy man, we would call him—met them. This man lived among the tombs, was so wild and fierce that it was dangerous for people to pass that way. He was so strong that he broke the chain when they tried to keep him fastened; no rope or chain could hold him. But when this wild maniac saw Jesus coming, he ran and worshiped him, crying with a loud voice. Then Jesus commanded the devils to come out of the man, and they did so, but begged that they might go into a herd of swine (hogs) that were feeding near. Then the evil spirit came out of the man and went into the hogs; there were a great many, about two thousand, but as soon as those evil spirits had entered into them they all ran down a steep place right into the sea, and were all drowned, every one.

The men who kept the herd ran into the city and told what had happened to their swine. All who heard this strange story, ran out to see what had been done; and they saw the man out of whom Jesus had driven the legion of evil spirits, sitting at his feet, "clothed, and in his right mind," listening to the words of Jesus. The multitude wondered greatly at what they saw and heard; still, they begged Jesus to go away. They should have asked him to come into their city and cure all their afflicted people; but they prayed him to depart from them. Jesus did as he was desired, entered the ship with his disciples to go back to Galilee. The man who had been so wonderfully cured, did not want to stay behind; he, too, would have gladly followed his Savior, and begged hard to go, Jesus would not permit this; he told the man to go to his own home, and let all his friends know "what great things the Lord had done for him."

WHAT JESUS DID AT CAPERNAUM.

WHEN the ship came to land there was a great multitude collected, who gladly received Jesus, for they were all waiting for him. Jesus went into a house near by and began to preach to the people, who filled the house and crowded around the doors to hear his words; for never man spoke as he did. While he was speaking, there came some, bringing a sick man on a bed for Jesus to cure. They could not get in the house, it was so full, so they went up on the roof and uncovered a place large enough to let the bed through, and in this way laid the sick man at Jesus' feet. They had great faith in the power of the Savior to cure their sick friend, and in his willingness too. He saw this, and therefore graciously said to the poor man, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." He was brought to have his body cured, but Jesus gave first what he most needed; for sin de-

stroys the soul—is far worse and harder to remove than palsy or fever from the body. Those who heard him say, “Thy sins be forgiven,” murmured in their hearts, saying, “How can a man forgive sins?” They did not speak aloud, they only thought so; but Jesus knew even their secret thoughts; and asked why they thought evil in their hearts; and then, that they might know that he had power on earth to forgive sins also, Jesus said to the sick man, “Arise, take up thy bed, and go home.” And the man who *was* so sick and weak that men had to carry him on a bed, got up immediately and carried his bed to his own home.



MATTHEW'S FEAST.

ONE day when Jesus was walking in the street, he passed by the place where the custom or tax-money was being paid in, and saw Matthew sitting there receiving money: for he was a publican or taxgather. Jesus said to Matthew, "Follow me;" and he arose and followed him to be a disciple, and afterward wrote the Gospel which bears his name. Matthew made a feast for Jesus, and many of the publicans, and sinners, too, were invited, and came and sat down at the table with him and his disciples. The Pharisees were those who thought themselves very good—much better than other folks; and they wondered, and asked, "why Jesus ate with sinners?" They would not. But Jesus came, not to call and save the righteous. No! he only came to save and bless sinners—poor, helpless, ignorant, and wicked; these Jesus came to seek out and save, and the more one feels

guilty and miserable, the sooner will Jesus bestow his blessing: for one who really needs a Savior, will earnestly desire pardon, and be more ready to accept deliverance when it is offered. Therefore, if you are afraid to trust in Jesus, because you are a great sinner, oh! remember that he came to call "sinners to repentance," and go to him at once, just as you are and he will save you.



THE LITTLE GIRL THAT DIED.

WHEN Jesus was teaching the people, there came a man named Jarius, a ruler among the Jews, and fell down at his feet, crying and entreating him to go to his house : for he had an only daughter, a dear little girl, about twelve years old, and she lay sick—even then dying. But the distressed father believed that if he could only get Jesus to go and see her, she could be cured, even when dying. Jesus kindly consented to go with him ; but such a crowd also went that they could not go very fast. On the way, a poor woman who had been twelve long years suffering from a grievous disease, came through the crowd and touched the clothes of Jesus. She had spent all her money—every thing she had—paying the doctors who tried to cure her, but she only grew worse. Now, when she knew Jesus was in the street, she had heard so much of his great power over disease,

she thought if she could only press through the multitude which surrounded him, and but touch the hem of his garment, she should be cured—she would try to reach him! She struggled through, touched him, and knew at once that she was well! Yes, she was really well again! Jesus knew what had been done, and he asked who touched him? Then the poor woman, trembling and afraid, fell at his feet and told him all. And Jesus spoke so kindly to her, she must have loved him very much, for he said, “Daughter, thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace.”

By this time messengers came from the ruler’s house, saying, “Thy daughter is *dead!*” Do not trouble the Master any more, for they thought it quite useless to bring a doctor to see a dead body. But Jesus told the man to believe in him, even if his daughter was dead, and she should be restored to him again.

When they reached the house, there were many people there, the kindred and friends,

all weeping and lamenting the death of the dear little girl. Jesus sent them all out of the room in which the body lay, except the father and mother and his own disciples; then he took her by the hand and said, Arise! and she sat up in the bed. Jesus gave her to her mother. Oh! how glad and happy she must have felt when the good, kind Jesus put in her arms, alive and well, the child she had but the moment before seen lying cold and still, and pale in death! Jesus told them to give her food, and she ate and was well and strong as ever.



ABOUT THE BLIND MEN.

WHAT are blind men, mamma? Shut your eyes tight, put both little hands over them; now you can not see the blue sky, the golden sunshine, the green trees, nor the birds or flowers—you can not even see baby or dear mamma. That is being blind, only you can open your eyes and see all these things again; but for those poor men there was no day—always a long dark night. They had never seen any thing—their eyes were always so they could not see. When Jesus was going back from Jarius' house, two blind men followed him crying, saying, "Have merey on us! Have mercy on us! Open our eyes that we may see." They followed him in where he went, still crying. Then Jesus asked them if they believed that he was able to give them sight; and when they answered, "Yes, Lord!" he touched their eyes, and immediately their eyes came open, and they could

see the beautiful world in which they lived. Then they departed, and spread abroad his fame all through the country. They knew it was, indeed, their expected Messiah, the Son of David, their first great King. As they went out, behold here came some bringing a dumb man to be cured. The dumb can not speak; they have tongues but can not talk or sing!—can not say one word even! But this poor creature was worse than dumb—he was possessed with a devil. This Jesus cast out, and the dumb man spoke, causing the multitude to wonder greatly, for the like had never been seen before.



SENDING OUT THE DISCIPLES.

AFTER this, Jesus called his twelve disciples to him, that he might tell them what to do and say, and send them to go through the country, and preach in all the towns and cities. They were to heal the sick, do all they had seen him do, and preach everywhere, for people to *repent*. Jesus also went about doing good and preaching. Here are some of the words he said; they are very precious words, and you must learn them: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls." O! how sweet it is to know that when weary from the cares and trials of life, burdened with sin and grief, we may go to Jesus and find *rest*, aye, peace and joy, too; for all these are found only by trusting in Jesus.

When the Apostles had done as he told

them, they came back to give him an account of all they had seen and accomplished while absent. But there was such a multitude around him, so many coming and going, that they could not talk to him. They had not even time to eat. So Jesus went in a ship privately with them that they might go for a little while to some lonely desert place and rest, while they took some food and conversed with each other. But some one saw him go in the ship, and it was soon known by all the company that Jesus was not there. They saw which way he went, and they all followed him, as fast as they could, some in ships, and boats, others ran along the beach, and got there first, so that Jesus saw a great multitude there already, when he went out of the ship. No doubt but what he was very tired, perhaps weak and faint, but he did not chide them for coming, or drive them away. No, when he saw the vast crowd of people he pitied them, and healed all that were sick among them; and he went up the mountain and preached

to them—he had cured their diseases, now he would teach them how to gain admittance to that “Happy Land,” where no one is ever sick.



THE SUPPER GIVEN TO THE MULTITUDE.

WHEN it was evening, some of the disciples begged Jesus to send the people away, that they might go into the towns and villages about there, and buy some food, for they knew they must be very hungry. But Jesus said, "No, give them something to eat," and he asked Philip where bread could be bought to feed them all. Jesus knew what he would do, but he waited for Philip's answer, and he said, "Two hundred pennyworth of bread will not be enough to give each one a little." The disciples seemed surprised at being told to give them all food; perhaps disposed to murmur at what seemed an impossible thing, for they asked where in such a wilderness could they get enough bread for so many. Then Jesus asked how much bread they had, and Andrew said, "Five loaves, and two small fishes; but what are these among so many?" 'T was only a poor supper for

themselves, but not at all worth dividing with that great company of people. They brought what they had to Jesus, however, and he bade them make them all sit down on the green grass in rows, of fifty or a hundred; and when all were seated, Jesus looked up to heaven and blessed the food, gave thanks for it to our Heavenly Father, who makes it all. He then broke up the five loaves, and the two fishes, and gave them to his disciples, to carry around to all the folks—and there was a plenty—“They did all eat, and were filled.” When every one had enough bread and fish, Jesus told them to gather up the fragments, that nothing might be wasted; and lo! they had twelve baskets full of broken bread and fish, after so many had been fed! More than they had at first, so they had lost nothing by sharing their food with the hungry people. Five thousand men, besides women children, had been fed by Jesus, and then he made his disciples get in their ship to go back, while he stayed, and sent the people

away to their own homes, and when at last all were gone, and he was there alone, he went up into the mountain to pray.

“Did Jesus have to pray too?”

Jesus loved to pray—he prayed often, sometimes stayed out all night by himself praying to God his Father. He had no sins to be forgiven, but he prayed for the poor wicked people—for his enemies; for holy and kind as he was, there were many who persecuted him, called him evil names, took up stones to throw at him, tried to kill him—Jesus prayed for these. He prayed for his disciples too, and for all who should afterward believe in him. O how happy we should be, if we love and obey Jesus, for he has prayed for all such, that God would keep and bless and save them, and God will do it, because Jesus asked him to.

WALKING ON THE WATER.

THE disciples went away in their ship late in the evening, leaving Jesus behind, as I have already told you, but before they reached the other shore, a storm came on, the wind blew hard, and though they toiled hard, they could not bring their vessel to land. Again they were in great danger, but this time their Master was not asleep in the ship, that they could wake him, as they had once before done, that he might help them. They had left him behind; now what could they do in such a storm? Then Jesus came, walking on the water, just like it had been dry land, and the frightened men cried out—they thought it was a spirit, coming through the waves at that late hour of night, and “so they cried out for fear.” But Jesus said, “It is I, be not afraid.” When Peter heard this, he said, “If it be thou, bid me come unto thee;” and Jesus said, “Come.” Peter

started very bravely to walk on the sea, and met his Lord, but when he found the waves and wind very rough, his courage failed, his faith in Jesus was not strong enough, and he began to sink. But when sinking, he cried, "Lord, save me!" and Jesus put forth his hand and saved him, and they both went into the ship. Then the storm ceased immediately, and those who were in the ship came and worshiped him, saying, "Of a truth thou *art* the Son of God."

With Jesus in the vessel, they soon safely reached the shore, and again the multitudes thronged around him, bringing the sick, and lame, and blind, or deaf, or dumb, and as before, Jesus pitied them, and cured them all, so that the multitudes were greatly astonished when they saw the lame walking, the blind able to see, the dumb to speak, and even those who had lost a limb, made whole again; and they glorified God.

ANOTHER SUPPER IN THE WOODS.

THE multitude had been three days staying in the wilderness without food, when Jesus said to his disciples, "I pity the people, because they have nothing to eat, if I send them away fasting they will faint by the way." But the disciples asked where they could get bread to feed so many in that wilderness. 'Tis strange they did not remember how he had fed five thousand with five loaves and two fishes, and at once bring him what they had, but when he told them, they brought their provisions to him: seven loaves of bread and a few little fishes. Jesus made the people all sit down on the ground, then he gave thanks, and blessed the food before him, and broke it up in pieces; these he gave to his disciples and they carried to all the people, till every body had eaten enough. After supper they gathered up the scraps and crumbs and found they had seven baskets full. Four

thousand men, besides a great many women and children had been fed from the seven loaves and few small fishes, and still there was a great deal left.



THE WIDOW OF NAIN.

AT Nain, a beautiful city where Jesus sometimes went with his disciples, lived a widow, who had an only son. Very precious was this son to his mother. All through his infancy and childhood she had watched and cared for him, O so tenderly. Perhaps she was poor and had to work very hard, to feed and clothe herself and child, but she did not care for that, she could willingly toil for one she loved so well; cheered, too, by the hope that her son, as he grew up, would work for her; that when she should be old and feeble, he would be strong in his early manhood, and would gratefully provide for all her wants. Then, too, she was a widow, sad and lonely, but she looked anxiously for the time when this dear child should become her friend and comforter, and would repay all her affectionate care with love and devotion to her, and then, with his strong arm to lean on for

support, his kindness and duty to comfort and cheer her, her last years should be her happiest. It was a bright future hope had pictured for her declining years; but just when she fancied the time had come to realize all this—for her son had become a young man—death came; not to the old worn mother; gladly would she have died too, but this only son, her last comforter, was taken away—he was dead. She was alone in the world, no husband, no son! A long train of mourners and sympathising friends were going out to bury him; some kind men bore the body on a sort of couch, and by it walked the weeping mother! But they did not go to the open grave; did not cover up that precious form in the cold, dark ground. O joy for the sorrow-stricken mother; Jesus was going that way. He saw the funeral procession, the bier, and the solitary mother; he knew what it all meant, he, too, understood her grief for this only son, and he pitied her; his heart was touched by her distress, and he was able and willing

to turn her bitter grief to sweetest joy. Jesus walked up and touched the bier. Then those who carried it stood still. It may be they had heard of his wondrous power, and hoped he would now show one of his mighty deeds. However, they stepped with their burden, and Jesus took the cold, dead hand in his, saying, "Young man, arise." Then he sat up, and alive and well was restored by the compassionate Jesus, to his now glad, rejoicing mother.

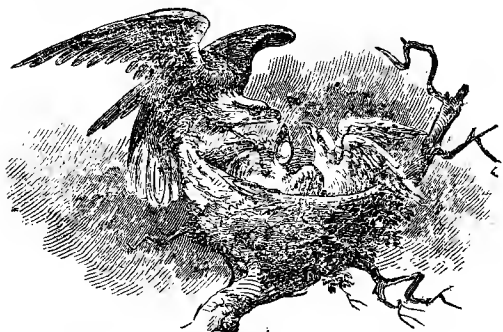


JESUS AND THE LITTLE CHILDREN.

“ID Jesus notice little children?” Yes, he sometimes took them up in his arms.

“Did he? O tell me all about it, mamma!” At one time some women brought their little children to the good kind Master for him to touch them. The disciples did not like this, they did not wish to be troubled with children, and they did not think that Jesus, who had so much to do, so many sick folks to cure, such great multitudes to preach for, could stop to touch children. So they sent them away. But when Jesus knew it, he was much displeased with his disciples, and said, “Forbid them not.” “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Then he took the little ones up in his arms and touched and blessed them. A holy prophet said long before this that he would “Gather the lambs in his arms, and

carry them in his bosom." Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd, and children are the little lambs, that he will kindly care for, and love, and save in his heavenly home. Would you not like to go to Jesus, and be blessed by him? You may go to him now in humble prayer, for he yet calls to him little children. You are ignorant and sinful, but he will teach you his way; he will take away your sins and make your heart a fit place for his holy spirit to dwell in. Every child may go to Jesus; and be happy. Love him, dear child, because he first loved you.



JESUS PREACHING.

JESUS used often to go up into a high hill or mountain and sit down, then his disciples would gather around near him, while the multitude filled the plain below. In this way all could hear the gracious words that he spake. One day, when he was seated in this way on a mountain, he began to tell the people who were blessed or happy. Now listen carefully, for you could not guess the kinds of people Jesus calls the "Blessed." Not those who are very rich, who have servants and carriages, and fine houses, and every nice thing they wish. O, no, one may have all these and still be very unhappy. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. Blessed are the peace-makers; for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This is the way Jesus describes the blessed ones, for whom are the joys of heaven. Study these words, dear child, till you know them all, and pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you all that they mean, and to 'make you in all things like those whom Jesus called the blessed.

ABOUT DRESS AND FOOD.

These are the two things which most of people think most about. Our Savior did not forbid all care about such things, only unnecessary care, which keeps the mind so occupied as to cause his service to be neglected. His people should do their duty faithfully, thou trust to their heavenly Father for all needful things. Jesus said God cares

for and watches the little birds, not one falls but he sees it; and if God so cares for birds will he not care for his children? Even the hairs of our heads are all numbered by him, and no harm can happen to us but by his knowledge and consent, designed only for our good; we may not see how this can be, or why we suffer, but we must remember that our Father knows and that is enough. For such as think and care too much about clothes to wear, Jesus points to the sweet wild flowers, to the lilies, saying, "see how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin, yet Solomon in all his glory was not like one of these." Solomon was a great king, and had splendid robes, and crowns, and jewels to wear; yet was not as fine as the beautiful flowers that God puts everywhere. Therefore Jesus teaches us not to be troubled about food or clothing; but seek first to know and do his will, and God who knows best what we need, will give them to us.

HOW TO TREAT ENEMIES.

“What are enemies, mamma?” They are those who treat us unkindly, injure or do us harm.

“I do not love such naughty folks, ma?” No, Jesus knew that those who heard him preach did not, he knew how the sinful nature in us wishes to give back cross, unkind words when such are given us; to return blow for blow, evil for evil, hate for hate. Jesus knew all this, but he taught a new, a better way. ’Tis this; “love your enemies; do good for evil,” give kind words for cross ones, kisses for blows; “pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” These are very hard rules for those who do not love and obey God; but those whose hearts are right with him, find it very easy to obey them, for this is the way Jesus felt and acted; and all who love him as they should, love to do as he did.

HOW TO PRAY.

Once when Jesus had been praying, his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us how to pray." This is what every child should ask now of the Lord Jesus, and he will hear, and send his Spirit to help all who really wish to pray. Jesus told his disciples not to pray only for men to see and honor them for it, but to retire to a secret place where only God can see and hear.

"Did he tell them what to say?" He told them to say, "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!" Jesus bids us pray to God as our dear Father, who knows all our wants, and is willing to relieve them. You

have now no father on earth to love and care for you; but if you will try to do his will you may always be happy because you have a Father in heaven, whose love is better, more enduring than any human love, always "too wise to err, too good to be unkind." He bids the orphan and the fatherless trust in him, and find an ever-present friend, to protect from ill, by his Almighty power, to comfort and bless with his loving kindness and tender mercy. O, my child, love him, give all your heart to him, and do not forget to pray to "Our Father."

ABOUT FORGIVENESS.

Jesus bids us ask God to forgive our debts or sins; but we must first forgive all who injure or treat us unkindly; for God, whom we every day offend, will not forgive us, unless we forgive our fellow-creatures who offend us. If you truly *forgive* an enemy, then you will pray for God to forgive and bless him too, and then you will gladly do them any kindness in your power.

THE FRIENDS OF JESUS.

NOW BLESSED were the friends of Jesus—those with whom he lived as a son or brother—so that they might see him every day, and hear his gracious words! Then they had so good an opportunity of showing their love to him! Would not you be happy if Jesus would come and live here, where you could see and hear him, and tell him that you love him very much?

At one time, when Jesus was in a house preaching, his mother, brothers and sisters came, wishing to speak with him. Perhaps they wanted him to go home with them; but the house was so full of people, they could not get in. Then some one went in and told Jesus who were out there waiting to see him. Jesus asked, "Who is my mother, and who are my brethren?" And then he told them, "Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Doing the will of God is obeying his commandments, and believing on Jesus Christ his Son, as the only Savior of sinners. This you may do, and be loved by Jesus dearer than any earthly kindred. For God is the Father of all that *believe*, and Jesus Christ is the dear elder brother, who has brought those who were lost and ruined sinners near to God, by giving his own precious blood to take away their sins.



CURING THE LEPER.

A LEPER is one afflicted with that dreadful disease, the leprosy. It was common in those warm eastern countries, and was so dreadful as to fill all who were threatened by it with the greatest fear. One who had the leprosy could not stay at home in his nice bed, and have a good doctor and kind friends to do all they could to help him. No; the poor leper must leave all these, and go off to the woods alone, or if he could find another like himself, they might stay together; but they must not touch a thing that well people used. They must not come near any one, not even their dearest friends, lest they should poison them. Those who gave them food, did so with great caution. The leper begged, standing far off, saying, "Unclean! unclean!" and the traveler put something on the ground, then made haste to get away, and the poor leper then might come and pick up what had been left

for him. Oh! lepers were indeed poor, miserable creatures! But I have told you about them, so that you can understand better the compassion Jesus showed in curing a poor leper.

Jesus was going somewhere one day, when one of these poor, suffering creatures saw him. He did not dare to come and fall down at Jesus' feet, asking him to pity and cure him, like others had done; but away out there in the dusty road lay the vile leper on his face, crying, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Now see how kind Jesus was; he went to him, put his hands on him—Jesus was not afraid to touch him, neither was he too proud—and he said, "I will. Be thou clean." And the leper was well; his loathsome disease all gone; now he can safely go back to his home, and rejoice with all the dear friends there for his happy cure.

I had another motive too in telling you about leprosy; for sin is compared to that frightful disease, making the soul as loath-

some to a holy being as that made the body. Yet Jesus, the same good physician, can remove sin from the soul just as easy, and is quite as willing to do it, as he was to touch the poor leper, and say, "Be clean."



VISITORS FROM HEAVEN.

JESUS took with him Peter, James and John, and went up into a high mountain to pray; but while he prayed, a strangely glorious change passed over him. His disciples had seen him toiling up the steep way, dressed only in the poor, coarse garments he always wore; now suddenly they beheld his raiment "white as the light"—"white as snow"—and his face shining like the sun; and as they looked, behold! Moses and Elias were there, talking with him. Moses was the great prophet and lawgiver, whom God had chosen to lead his people, the Israelites or Jews, out of Egypt, and to receive from him the commandments and law which God wished them to obey. Moses had died long before this, and had been buried by the Lord where no man could find his grave. Elias was the prophet Elijah, whom the ravens fed by the brook. He lived a great many years ago in the

world for a time, and then he did not die. God sent horses and a chariot of fire, and took him up to heaven just as he was. Now both of these had come to talk with Jesus. What they said, no *one* can tell; but we know that they talked of the death which Jesus knew he was soon to suffer at Jerusalem. His life on earth was nearly finished. A little while longer he was to spend in doing good to his enemies, then let them cruelly kill him, and when *all* was finished that he came to do, then he would return to his throne in heaven. God had sent Moses and Elias to talk with him of these things. The three disciples had been very sleepy up there, but now they were awake, and greatly astonished; and Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here;" and he offered to make, if Jesus would let him, three tents—one for his Master, and one apiece for the two heavenly guests. I suppose Peter thought it much better for his Lord to remain there in his glorious shining raiment, and have his company from heaven, than to be down

on the plains, an humble Galilean, followed by such vast crowds of the poor and the miserable; and he would like to stay and behold his glory. But while Peter talked about his tents, a bright cloud came over them, and they heard a voice saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased—hear ye him." When Peter, James and John heard these words coming out of the bright cloud which covered them, they were very much afraid, and fell on their faces to the earth. Jesus saw how frightened they were, and he went to where they lay, put his hand on them, and said, "Arise, and be not afraid." Then they opened their eyes, but the bright cloud was gone, and they saw no man save Jesus only. Jesus bade them not to tell any one of this wonderful scene in the mountains until he had risen from the dead; and they went down, greatly wondering what it all meant.

THE CHILD CURED.

WHEN they reached the plain, they found a great many people collected there, and when they saw Jesus coming, they saluted him. Jesus asked what they were talking about, and found that a man had brought his little son to those disciples left behind, to be cured of a dreadful disease; but they could not cure him.

Now the distressed father applies to Jesus, begging him to save his son, his only child, so grievously tormented; sometimes he fell in the fire; sometimes in the water; and even while he was speaking, the poor child fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. When the man told Jesus of this sad case, and said, "If thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us," Jesus said, "If thou canst believe; all things are possible to him that believeth;" and the poor father answered, with tears, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Jesus

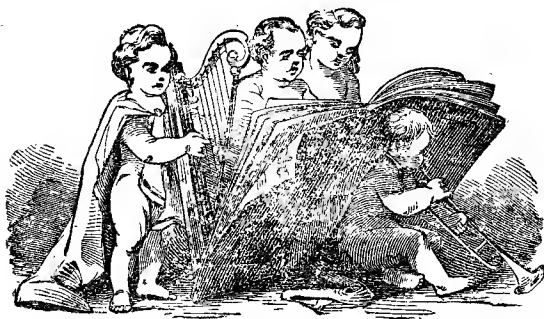
spoke the word, and the child was well. Oh! how happy was that father that he could take home his only son, so long a suffering lunatic, now completely restored! It was as though he had been given to him just then from heaven. I wonder if both father and son did not ever after, as long as they lived, love and worship this compassionate Savior.



THE LOST SHEEP.

JESUS often gave instruction by parables. A parable is a short story, teaching some important truth. He told of a man who had a flock of sheep feeding on the mountain; there were a hundred of them, and the shepherd took good care of them and valued them highly; but by and by, one of his sheep is not with the others. 'Tis lost; a wolf will eat it, or it may fall down a steep place and perish. Then the shepherd leaves the flock and goes over the hills and rocks and valleys, looking everywhere for his lost sheep. And when he has found it he is very glad, and carries it back, rejoicing more over the one he had found, than over all the ninety and nine that had never been lost. And he calls in all his neighbors to help him rejoice. Now Jesus says, "Likewise there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." Jesus is the "good Shepherd," and sinners are the

lost sheep, wandering off far from God and heaven and happiness. Jesus knows their sad condition; helpless, too, as the poor sheep on the mountain, they can not find the way back till the good Shepherd finds and brings them back. Jesus came from heaven to seek and to save the *lost*; to do this, he gave his life for them: and oh, what joy there is in heaven when a lost soul is found. The angels rejoice over a repenting sinner.



THE PRODIGAL SON.

THIS parable shows how God receives and welcomes the returning sinner. Jesus taught this by telling this story: A certain man had a son who took his part of his father's goods or estate, and went off to a far country, where he wasted and spent all he had. Then he was obliged to work, so he hired himself to a rich man to feed his hogs. But he was very hungry, and nobody gave him food, so he was obliged to eat some of the husks that the hogs had for food. Then he thought of his dear kind father, and remembered that there was always bread enough and to spare. And he thought he would go home and say, "Father, I have sinned, and am no more worthy to be called thy son," but "make me as one of thy hired servants." He made haste, then, to go back, and his father saw him coming while yet a great way off. Was the father angry? Oh no; he ran to

meet him, put his arm around his son's neck, and kissed him. He then called to his servants to bring the best robe and put on him, and a ring, and shoes for his feet, and bids them haste to prepare a feast for him, that they might all rejoice over this son who had been lost but was now found, dead but alive again. Now, this is the way that God, the good Father in heaven, feels toward a repenting sinner; no matter how wicked he has been, as soon as he is sorry that he has sinned, and asks to be forgiven, God is ready to receive him, and all the bright angels rejoice together, because one lost has been found, and brought near to God by the death of his dear Son, Jesus our Redeemer. Return, my dear child, from the ways of sin, in which your little feet are now entering; for they will surely lead to sorrow and pain. Even now, let there be joy in heaven, because *you* are willing to be taught by the Holy Spirit, and brought into the church, the fold of God, by the good Shepherd, who leads his sheep through

green pastures, and carries the little lambs
in his bosom.

Jesus, tender Shepherd mild,
Hear and bless a little child;
While to thee I humbly pray,
Come and wash my sins away.

Take away my stubborn heart,
Make me gentle as thou art.
Let thy spirit from above
Come and teach me how to love.

As I grow from day to day,
Guide me on in wisdom's way;
Teach me all thy holy will,—
Speak thy wishes to me still.

Keep me faithful, kind and true,
Doing all I ought to do;
Then when rest to me is given,
Take me to thy fold in heaven.



ANOTHER FEAST AT JERUSALEM.

SOME of the brethren of Jesus, in Galilee, told him to go up to the feast at Jerusalem, and let the people in Judea see some of his great and wonderful works. They said this tauntingly, for, strange as it may seem, they did not believe in him. Jesus bade them go up to the feast, saying he was not then ready to go. The Jews wished to kill him, and he knew it; therefore he said, "My time is not yet come." But after they had gone, Jesus went secretly to Jerusalem; and one day, in the midst of the feast, he appeared suddenly in the temple, and began to teach the people. They had been talking about him, some asking, "Where is he?" others, "Will he not come?" Some said he was a good man; others, that he deceived the people.

They were all much surprised to see him standing boldly among his enemies, telling them of his kingdom, and mission on earth.

Many believed on him then. But the Pharisees and priests sent officers to take him. When the officers came to him, Jesus said, "Yet a little while am I with you; and then I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me and shall not find me, and where I am ye can not come." The officers returned to those who had sent them; but when asked "Why they had not brought him," they answered, "Never man spake like this man." Jesus still continued teaching in the temple, and no one laid hands on him, though many desired his death. But when he told them that he was going back to his Father, and that they would die in their sins unless they believed in him, they became so angry that they took up stones to kill him. "Did they hurt him?" No; the time had not yet come for him to die, so he passed unharmed right through the excited, wicked people, and went away. Once before, when he had been teaching in a house of worship on a Sabbath day, his hearers became so angry that they led him

out to a steep hill-top, intending to dash him down, in order to destroy him. But there, too, Jesus passed through the crowd and went away unharmed. This shows that he was indeed the Son of God, having power over his own life, and no one could hurt him until he was ready to offer himself a sacrifice for our sins.



THE BLIND MAN.

As Jesus and his disciples went out, they saw a man who had always been blind; even when a little babe he did not see, could not open his eyes. The disciples thought it was a punishment for sin; but Jesus told them *no*. And he spat on the ground and made clay, then he put some on the blind man's eyes and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The man went and washed, and came back seeing. Jesus could have opened this man's eyes by only a touch, or a word, as he had others; but sometimes he chooses to give those who would be helped by him something to do, to show whether they will obey him. If this blind man had not gone to wash his eyes, they would never have been opened. But he did just as he had been told, and his eyes at once came open.

This man did not then know who had done this great kindness to him; but afterward, when Jesus told him who he was, he *believed*, and worshiped Jesus.

THE WONDERFUL POOL.

THERE were many pools in and near Jerusalem, prepared to hold a great deal of water. One of these, called Bethesda, near the sheep market, was a wonderful pool. For at certain seasons an angel came down and troubled the water in it, and then, O! strange to tell! the first sick person who stepped in, after the angel troubled or stirred the water, was at once quite well.

You will guess that there were always plenty of invalids there waiting for the angel's visit. So there were; year after year the sick lay there waiting, O, how anxiously, to step in and be cured! Among others waiting, there was a poor man, who had been sick thirty-eight years. O! what a long, long time to lie sick, suffering, and friendless! No wonder that the kind Jesus, when he came by, pitied him and was willing to help him. Jesus said to the man, "Wilt thou be made whole?" and he replied, "Sir, I have no one to put me into

the pool, when it is troubled, and while I am trying to get in, another steps in before me." Poor man, he has waited so long in vain; but now he shall wait no longer, for Jesus will be his friend, not to put him in the pool. Jesus says to him, "Rise, take up thy bed and walk." The man was willing to try, and with the command, Jesus gave him strength to obey. The man took up his bed and walked. When told that it was wrong to carry his bed on the Sabbath, he said that the man who had cured him, told him to do so. When Jesus met him again, he said, "Behold thou art made whole, sin no more lest a worse thing come unto thee." Before this the man did not know who had told him to take up his bed and walk. Now he knew that it was Jesus, and he told the Jews that it was him, but instead of their praising God for this wonderful cure, they persecuted Jesus because he had cured the man on a Sabbath day. Jesus knew what they thought, and what they would do to him if they could, so he returned to Galilee.

JESUS AT THE PHARISEE'S HOUSE.

BETHANY is a little village near to Jerusalem. Here once lived a man named Simon. He was one of the Pharisees, but unlike most of his sect, he did not wish to kill Jesus. When Jesus was in the village he begged him to come into his house to eat with him. He was called Simon, the leper. It may be that he had been cured of his leprosy by Jesus; he must have been then well, or he could not have entertained company, or even stayed in his own house. Jesus, and his disciples too, went to Simon's supper, and while they were seated at the table a woman named Mary came in. Mary had a box of very precious ointment, and she came up behind Jesus and began to wash his feet with tears, and to wipe them with her hair. She kissed his feet too, and then she broke her box and poured the sweet smelling ointment on the Savior's head, and on his feet. When those present saw this,

some said if he were a prophet he would have known that this woman was a sinner, and would not have suffered her to touch him. But Jesus said to them that those who had much forgiven would love more than those who had but little forgiven. Then he said to Mary, "Thy sins are forgiven." Jesus knew she had been very wicked and would love him much because he forgave her for all her sins. And he said, "Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace." Some blamed her for using her precious ointment in this way, calling it a great waste. And Judas one of the twelve, who followed Jesus, said it ought to have been sold and the money given to the poor. Then Jesus said, "Let her alone, she hath done a good work." And he bestowed this honorable commendation: "She hath done what she could." O! who would not cheerfully, patiently toil through life, but to have Jesus say at last, "She hath done what she could?" And because she had done this good work, he said, "Wherever this Gospel

shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done, shall be spoken of, for a memorial of her."

Jesus does not let any kindness to him go unrewarded, and though he is no longer on earth, that we may show our love and gratitude to him, by relieving his wants, or adding to his comforts, as did this Mary of whom I have been telling you, yet he has many dear children in the world. All true believers are his dear children, and every kindness done to them, for his sake, is regarded by him as done to himself. Those who receive his disciples are blessed by Jesus, as though it had been him, he says that even a cup of cold water, given for his sake shall not only be noticed by him, but also rewarded. If we cultivate a spirit of benevolence, we shall always find around us the sick, whom we can visit, or sorrowful, whom we may cheer, or some poorer than ourselves, that we can assist—all this is a pleasure, because they are our fellow-creatures; but when we remember that all these

little kindly deeds, if done with the right motive, that of serving our blessed Savior, are accepted by him and rewarded, then it is a great, a glorious privilege, that of doing good to others. Every one may in this way be laying up treasures in heaven. Even a little child like you, if love to Jesus fills the heart, may do generous, unselfish acts each day, that will make those happier with whom you live, and be seen and blessed by the dear Redeemer.



THE FAMILY THAT JESUS LOVED.

DURING one of his visits around Jerusalem, Jesus stopped in Bethany, and a woman there named Martha, asked him to come into her house. Then she sought to honor him, and show her love to him, by preparing a good supper. When Jesus was her guest, she would give him the very best entertainment she could. Now Martha had a sister Mary, but Mary was not helping her work, she sat at Jesus' feet, listening while he talked, learning from him how she might find peace and joy by believing on him. Poor Martha felt troubled, and hurried, fearing that she could not have all ready in time. So she came to Jesus and asked him if he did not care that her sister had left her to serve alone, and she said, "Bid her help me." But Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha! thou art careful, and troubled about many *things*, but Mary

has chosen the one thing needful, which shall not be taken away from her.”

“What was it Mary had chosen?”

She had chosen to learn of Jesus, to have her heart filled with love to him; to obey all his commandments. Mary had done what Jesus bade all his disciples do, when he said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” It was a happy choice that Mary made. O may God incline you to make the same wise choice. Better than gold, or silver, or precious, costly jewels, is God’s grace in the heart. This is indeed the pearl of great price, and one who has it, shall ever be rich; rich in the choicest blessings God bestows



MORE ABOUT MARTHA AND MARY.

MARTHA and Mary had a brother Lazarus. I think their parents were dead, and that there lived in the same house only the brothers and two sisters. They must have been very kind and good, for 't is said, "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister, and Lazarus." And I think they must have lived very happily together. But after awhile the good brother was very sick. What could the sisters do? Jesus was far away in Galilee. Had he been near, they would have hastened to him, and begged him, with many tears, to come and cure their brother. But they sent to him, saying, "Lord, behold he whom thou lovest is sick." They hoped he would come to them immediately, or perhaps speak the word even where he was, and restore Lazarus to health. But Jesus stayed two days where he was, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go again into Judea." His disci-

ples answered, "Master, the Jews sought to stone thee, and goest thou thither again." Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth, I go to awake him." They did not know what he meant by this, and he then told them plainly, that Lazarus was dead! Thomas said to the other disciples, "Let us go, that we may die with him," for he thought the Jews would surely kill his Master if he went among them. Before he reached the town, Martha heard that Jesus was coming, and she hastened out to meet him.

Here is part of their conversation. Said *Martha*, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

Jesus. Thy brother shall rise again.

Mar. I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Jes. I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, shall live again, and whosoever liveth

and believeth in me, shall never die ! Believest thou this ?

Mar. Yea, Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God.

Then Martha left Jesus there, and went to tell her sister that he had come, and wanted her. When Mary heard this, she rose up quickly, and ran to Jesus. In the house were many of the Jews, their friends, who had come to comfort the sisters. When they saw Mary go out, they thought she had gone to her brother's grave to weep, and they followed her. Mary fell down weeping when she came to Jesus, and said, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."

Jesus saw her weeping so bitterly at his feet, her friends also weeping, and he groaned, and was troubled. *Jesus wept* with them. He suffered much while on earth, but for himself we do not read of any tears ; for those he loved his tears were not restrained. No sorrow can reach his followers ; but he knows it, feels for them, and comforts them. While they all wept

together, Jesus asked where they had laid him, and they all went together to the tomb where this dear dead friend had been laid. It was a cave, closed with a great stone. Jesus bade them take the stone away; but Martha said he had been dead four days; she thought that by this time he had been so changed, that, instead of being a pleasure, it would be painful and offensive to have the grave opened. But they moved the stone at his word; then Jesus lifted up his eyes, and thanked his Father because he had heard him, and because the people there might witness his power, and believe in him as the Son of God. And when he had said this, he called with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And Lazarus, who had been dead four days, heard his voice, and came out with his burying clothes all on him, bound with napkins. Jesus said, "Loose him, and let him go!" Lazarus was alive, who had been dead! He could go back home with the sisters who loved him so well, and who had been so sad because he

was not with them. After awhile Lazarus had to die, and be buried again. But all who truly loved Jesus while they lived, will one day hear the voice of God, and live again, and they shall neither die, nor know sorrow nor pain any more. Many of the Jews who saw this great work, raising a man so long buried, believed in Jesus; but, strange as it may seem, some of those who saw it all went away to the Pharisees, who were his enemies, to tell them what had been done by Jesus; and they planned how they might kill him. Then Jesus went away with his disciples to the wilderness, and stayed there awhile, teaching these chosen few, where the Jews could not find him.



THE LAST JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM.

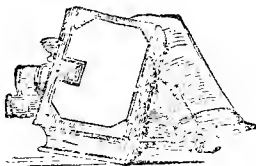
THE life of poverty and suffering which Jesus had cheerfully taken upon himself was now nearly finished. He had been a "man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief," all his life, but the bitterest part of his sufferings were now about to come upon him. The feast of the Passover was again at hand, and Jesus would go, as he had ever before, up to the temple, to keep this last Passover. He knew all that he must there suffer, but he would go and pay the price of man's redemption by offering himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. It was a long and weary journey on foot, which he often made; now, with his beloved disciples, he was going for the last time. And he taught them the more diligently, because he was so soon to leave them. He told them that they were going up to Jerusalem, where he should be mocked, spit on, scourged, put to death; but that on

the third day, he would be alive again. But the disciples did not quite understand him; he had frequently before spoke to them of his death and resurrection, but not so plainly as now; still it seemed that they could not believe that their dear, kind Master, who had gone about doing good, should really suffer such cruelties from those whom he came to save.



TEN LEPERS CURED.

As THEY passed through a certain village, they met a company of beggars. They were ten poor lepers, who stood afar off, and cried aloud, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests, and they started off; but as they went, they knew that they were cured. Nine of them kept on their way, but one, a poor Samaritan, when he felt that he was cured, turned back, praising God aloud, and with joy and gratitude he ran to Jesus, fell down at his feet, and thanked him for this happy change.



THE BLIND BEGGAR.

AS THEY came nearer to Jerusalem, the number of people going the same way had greatly increased, so that now quite a multitude were with Jesus. When they came to Jericho, a city they passed through on their way to Jerusalem, a blind man sat begging by the side of the road. Of course so many people would make a deal of noise, and when the poor beggar heard it, he asked what it meant. Somebody told him that *Jesus* was passing by. Oh! how glad he was; he had heard of Jesus—how he could open the eyes of a poor blind man like himself; and he cried aloud, very loud, to make sure of being heard, “Jesus, thou son of David, have merey on me! have merey on me!” Some were displeased with him, for making such a noise as *they* passed, and bade him stop crying out.

“Did he hush then?”

Oh, no! He eried so much the more—

"Thou son of David, have mercy on *me!*" Poor man! He was tired of sitting there begging his bread. It was always night for him; and only think how lonely and sad he was! Just like being alone in the *dark* all the time. He knew Jesus could help him; he believed that he *would* help him, if he could only let him know how badly he wanted to see. And now that he knew that Jesus was in the road, he would cry as loud as ever he could, so that Jesus could not help hearing him, if he passed that way.

"And did he hear?"

When Jesus came along, he stopped, and told them to bring the man to him. You will guess that he come very quickly. When he was near, Jesus asked him what he would have done for him, and the poor blind man said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus gave it to him; he said, "Receive thy sight; thy faith hath saved thee." Then his eyes came open, he *could* see, and he followed Jesus, praising and glorifying God.

ENTERING JERUSALEM.

WHEN Jesus and the people with him had reached Bethany, Jesus sent two of his disciples, telling them to go over to the village, where they should find a colt tied, and bring it for him to ride. He also told them, if the owner should ask why they untied the colt, that they must say, "The Master hath need of him." The two disciples went, and found a young colt that had never been rode, and as they untied him, the owner *did* ask why they did so; and when they said the Master needs him, he was willing for them to take his colt away.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus, and spread some of their clothes on, and sat him upon the colt. This is the only time we read of Jesus' riding; he used to walk such long, tiresome journeys through all the country, when he went about doing good; but now he was going for the last

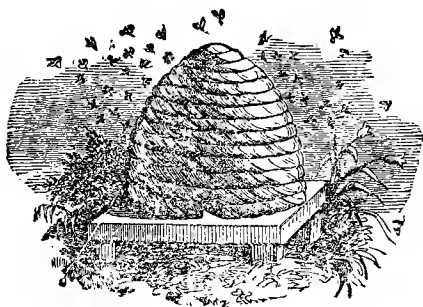
time, and he rode, while the multitude sang or shouted to his praise. Some came from Jerusalem to meet him, who had heard that he was coming, and they came, bringing green branches with them. Then they waved their palm branches, and sang, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King that cometh in the name of the Lord!" His own disciples, and those of the multitude who had seen his mighty works, rejoiced aloud, praising God for what had been done. This was a grand procession. The disciples thought that he was now going to be a great king; would have a palace, a crown, and scepter, as other kings had; and that this was his triumphal entry for that purpose. Jesus had told them he was going to Jerusalem to suffer a cruel death, but they did not believe it could be so. Perhaps it was because they loved him so well, and were so unwilling for him to die, that made them so slow to understand and believe that he must then be taken from them.

When Jesus came in sight of the city, he

wept over it, saying, "O Jerusalem! how often would I have gathered thy children as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not." Jesus knew that because the Jews had refused to believe in him, and would put him to death, that God would no longer keep them as his chosen people. He knew that in a few more years their beautiful city should be destroyed, their costly temple, in which they met to worship, would be burned to the ground; that many thousands of the people would be killed, or die of sickness or hunger, and that the rest of them would be driven out to wander all over the world. Jesus knew all this; therefore, as he looked upon the city he pitied and wept for its sad fate!

Jesus went to the temple, and after he had driven out those who bought and sold things, or changed money there, he taught the people, as he always did. After preaching all day, he did not go to a hotel, or the house of some great man, where he might rest and be comfortable; he did not go to

any house, but out to a mountain called Olivet; and after his long walk would climb the mountain and stay all night—no bed but the ground, no roof but the sky or the leafy *trees*. But I suppose Jesus did not sleep; he used to pray all night on the mount, then early in the morning return to the temple, where the people had already met to hear him. The priests and rulers of the people were still angry because he taught and worked miracles; and they were planning how they might take him secretly, for they feared the people would not suffer them to hurt him if they tried to take him while he was preaching.



THE LAST PASSOVER OF JESUS.

ON the day before the Passover feast was to be eaten, some of the disciples came to Jesus, asking *where* they should prepare it for him. Jesus told them to go into the city, and when they met a man who had a pitcher of water in his hand, they should ask him to show them his "guest chamber," or parlor, and that he would show them a large upper room in which to prepare the Supper. Peter and John went as Jesus told them—~~met~~ the man, and he showed them his parlor, and they made every thing ready. If you can remember what I told you of the Passover, you will understand this story much better. As I told you, the Passover was observed in memory of their happy deliverance from a cruel bondage in Egypt. Every year, when the day came on which they had left Egypt, every Jew killed a year old lamb, sprinkled some of its blood on the doors, as those had done in Egypt when the destroying angel passed over and hurt no one in a house that had

been marked with blood. Then they roasted the lamb on the fire, and ate it, with some herbs and heavy bread. When Adam and Eve first disobeyed God, He said they should surely *die*. For a just and holy God must punish *sin* with *death*. But even in the *garden* a Savior was promised, who would *die* to save them and their children from the dreadful pains they must suffer in *hell*, where Satan and the fallen angels had been driven. And until the time for this Savior to appear had come, God taught them to offer the blood of certain animals, as a sacrifice for sins. If they did so, repenting their evil deeds, and with faith in the Savior who should come, then God accepted their offering and forgave them. The time had now come. Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of God, left his throne in heaven, lived with poor sinful men, suffered as they did—obeyed perfectly the holy *law* God had given for man to keep; but so fallen and depraved had the human family become, that not one was found who had

kept or could keep it. But Jesus Christ, as a man, kept this law for *men*, and so honored God by obedience to all his commandments. A great deal more was still required; for all the people that had ever lived had sinned against God, and all who should afterward live would also *sin*, for all are born with sinful natures, and as soon as the little child is old enough it begins to do wrong, *to sin*. Now God had said, "The soul that sins shall surely die;" and it is impossible for a word that God has spoken to fail of being accomplished. But if his holy, well-beloved Son were willing to come and suffer death for all people, give his blood to atone for all their sins, then God was willing for him to do it, and he will accept *his* obedience for theirs, and the sufferings and death of Jesus for those of every sinner who would believe in him. Jesus Christ pitied the wicked; he loved them too. Oh what love it was, to cause him to *die*, to give his life to save from eternal death, not his friends, but his cruel, wicked enemies!

Jesus ate this last Passover with the twelve whom he had chosen to be with him. About three years they had followed him wherever he went, and he loved them as a kind father loves his own sons. But now Jesus was very sad—the time for him to be taken by his enemies had come, and one of these chosen ones had already made a bargain with the priests to betray Jesus. For thirty pieces of silver, Judas had promised to put his Master in their power, that they might kill him. Jesus knew all about this, but the wicked Judas did not know that he did, and so he sat at Supper, waiting for Jesus to go out, so he could go and tell the priests and officers where to find him. As they sat at Supper, Jesus told them that one of them would betray him. Then they were all very sorrowful, and one said, “Is it I?” and another, and another asked the same question; even Judas was bold enough to say, “Is it I?” and Jesus answered, “Thou hast said.”

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

THESE disciples had always kept the Passover; now Jesus was going away they need not observe that feast any longer, but Jesus would give them another, a Supper in memory of himself, which they and all others who should afterward believe on him should keep to show his death until he comes again. Jesus took some bread, blessed, or gave thanks, then brake it, and gave to his disciples, saying, "This is my body which is given for you." In the same way he blessed a cup of wine, and gave to them to drink, saying, "This is my blood, which is shed for you." And he bade them observe this Supper in remembrance of him. After he was gone back to heaven, his disciples often observed this Supper, and they taught others to do so too; and all Christians will continue in this way to show their obedience to Jesus and their faith in him until he comes the second time, without sin unto salvation.

JESUS WASHED THEIR FEET.

HERE had been a dispute among the disciples about being greatest. It was a strange thing for them to strive or quarrel about, Who shall be first or greatest; and they, the disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus. Now Jesus was going to show them their folly, and how wrong it was for them to dispute or think about being great. So he arose up from table, took a basin and towel and washed their feet. He, their Lord and Master, whom they must all obey, had taken the lowest servant's place and washed their feet; now they must be humble and willing to serve each other in any way they could.

He called them little children, and said, "Yet a little while I am with you; a new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another." Seeing them very sorrowful, he comforted them, saying, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in

God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also." Precious words, these are. They have comforted those who believe in him, even until now. And he promised them to *do* whatever they would ask in his name. He also promised to send them a Comforter from heaven—the Holy Spirit—to teach them all things, and bring to remembrance what he had taught them. Again, he charged them to "Love one another," saying, If ye love me ye will keep my commandments. Do not forget this new commandment, dear children. You, too, must love one another, or you can not be the friends of Jesus. Jesus warned his disciples that they too must suffer persecution—that the world would hate them and kill them too; but he promised them *peace* and joy by faith in him.

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven

and prayed, oh how earnestly, that God his Father would keep these disciples from the evil of the world ; that he would “sanctify them through his Word ; keep them from sin ; and let them be with him to see and share his glory. Now Jesus knew that his Father would grant whatever he should ask, therefore he prayed thus for these disciples ; but he did not pray only for these,—he asked the same blessings for all who should believe in him. So if *we* love Jesus, we may read this prayer, and remember that Jesus then prayed for us. When Jesus had thus prayed, he and the disciples went out of the city. It was now night, but they went on, over the brook Cedron, to the “Mount of Olives,” and into a garden, where he had often been with them before. Judas knew this place well, for he had been there too.

GETHSEMANE.

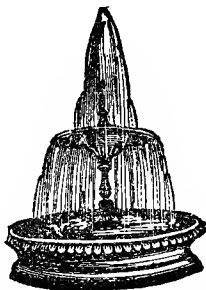
THIS is the name of the garden where Jesus went. When he got there he said to his disciples, "Pray that ye enter not into temptation." Then he took Peter, and James, and John, and going on a little further he bade them watch and pray,—for he said, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. Jesus went a little way from them and he fell on his face and prayed, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this hour pass from me." Then he went back to the three disciples, but they were sleeping. From sorrow Jesus said, "Peter, could you not watch one hour?" "Watch and pray." And he went again and prayed, "Father, if it be possible, let this hour pass from me: nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." Again, he went and found them sleeping, reproved them in the same gentle way, then went back a third time, praying that

if it were possible, he might be spared the dreadful humiliation and death that was coming on him; being in an agony he prayed more earnestly, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: but not my will, but thine be done." And his sweat was like great drops of blood. Oh, that dreadful midnight hour in the garden! We may not know how great the sufferings were which our Savior there bore for us. Those drops of bloody sweat streaming down his pale cheeks—forced through each pore by agonizing grief. We, too, should weep, for those drops fell for us. He prayed that if it were possible he might be spared "that hour;" but it was not possible. A just God could not forgive and pardon sinners till an atonement was made; either they the guilty, or he the holy must pay the penalty—must *die*! An angel came from heaven to strengthen him; and when he rose from prayer, he came the third time to his disciples and still found them sleeping.

Jesus said to them, "Why sleep ye? Rise and pray; he that betrayeth me is at hand." And he went on to meet them; for he was now ready to go into the power of his enemies. As he walked, there came Judas, that false disciple, with a band of armed men, whom he was leading out to take Jesus. Before they came to the garden, Judas had said, "The one that I shall kiss is Jesus." Then he came right up to his Lord, and, as if he were very glad to see him, he said, "Hail, Master!" and kissed him. Jesus answered, "Betrayest thou thy Master with a kiss?" He then asked the soldiers whom they sought, and when they said, "Jesus of Nazareth," he said, "I am he." Then the men went backward, and fell to the ground. Again he asked them whom they sought, and when they gave him the same answer, he said, "I am he; let these go their way." Jesus cared even then for his poor, frightened disciples.

Simon Peter had a sword too, as well as

those who came to take his Lord away, and he thought he would be very brave and fight for him ; so he drew his sword, and cut off one man's ear. But Jesus bade Peter put up his sword, telling him that he could, if he asked for them, have more than "twelve legions of angels." Then he put out his hand, touched the wounded ear, and immediately it was made whole. Jesus cured an enemy even while they were leading him away to suffer unjustly. He had said, "Do good for evil." Here he showed how to do so, by himself doing a great favor for one who tried to injure him.



JESUS BROUGHT BEFORE HIS ENEMIES.

WHEN those men had laid hands on Jesus to lead him away, the disciples all forsook him, and ran away. But Peter turned back again, and followed Jesus afar off. John also, who was "the beloved disciple," followed too. They went in the judgment hall, where Jesus had been brought. There stood the blessed Savior in the hall, before the priests, who were his judges, surrounded by wicked, angry men, who tried to bring some accusation against him; but they could not find one wrong act that he had ever done, one wicked word that he had ever spoken, in all his life. They insulted him; spit on him; struck him with their hands; they blindfolded him, then striking him in the face, mockingly told him to prophesy who hit him. To all this Jesus said not a word. Like the prophet Isaiah had written about the Messiah, "As a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened

not his mouth." All through the night was Jesus in the midst of these men, suffering silently whatever they chose to do to him. But early in the morning the high priest came, and asked him why he did not answer his accusers. Then he asked Jesus if *he* was the Christ. Jesus then spoke to the high priest, saying, "Thou hast said: Hereafter ye shall see the Son of man coming in power and great glory."



PETER'S DENIAL.

PETER, who had followed Jesus afar off, came and stood by the fire, for it was a cold night. Some one asked if he had not been with Jesus. Poor Peter! He had talked very boldly that day, how he would defend his Master, and stay by him if all the others left him. But now he was afraid they would treat him as they did Jesus, and he wickedly denied him, saying he did not know Jesus — had never been with him. Others said he had been with Jesus; but Peter still *denied*. Jesus did not say a word when he heard Peter say he did not know him, but he *looked* at him. Oh! there must have been a great deal of meaning in that look — grief and tender reproof; for Peter went out and wept bitterly. He had sinned, but when he repented, he was forgiven, and Jesus still loved him, and let him be an apostle.

When the high priest had heard what Jesus said, he rent his robe, as though it

had been something very bad indeed ; and they all said, " He deserves to die ! " Then they led him bound to the Roman governor, whose name was Pilate, to get his consent to crucify Jesus. They could not do it without his permission. Pilate heard what they said, and examined Jesus ; but he was obliged to say that *he* found no fault in him. The Jews still wished his death, and Pilate sent him to Herod, another governor or king, who was then in the city. But Herod found no fault in Jesus, and he and his men mocked him ; then put on a fine robe, like kings wore, and sent him back to Pilate. Now Pilate did not feel willing to condemn an innocent person ; so he said he would order Jesus to be beaten, and then release him. The Jews cried out, " Crucify him ! " And when Pilate offered to let him go, as he must release one prisoner at this feast, they all cried out for the blood of Jesus ; choosing to have a bad man, who had killed somebody, released from prison, rather than the holy Jesus, who had only done *good* all his life !

Pilate still seemed very unwilling to give permission for a just and good man to be cruelly killed, and he tried to reason with the Jews about it. His wife, too, sent to him a message, that she had dreamed of this innocent person, and begging him not to consent to his death. But the multitude, urged on by their priests and rulers, called so loudly for Jesus to be crucified, that Pilate saw that nothing else would satisfy them; and he then ordered Jesus to be scourged, and then led out of the city to suffer death. Jesus, the Son of God, the King of Glory, suffered this sentence to be executed. His flesh—human, full of nerves, alive to pain like ours—was torn by the cruel *lash* of the Roman scourge, just as they tortured their vilest criminals before execution!

“Why did Jesus let them do so?”

A prophet, who wrote of him a great many years before, has said, “by his stripes we are healed.” The scourging was a part of the suffering that he came to bear—he bore it all for us.

THE CRUCIFIXION.

AFTER they had mocked Jesus by putting on him a purple robe and a crown of thorns, they led him out to a place called Golgotha. A great multitude followed, shouting, "Away with him!" But some who followed were those who had known his goodness, and pitied him. They were women weeping for his cruel fate. Jesus saw them, and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but for yourselves and children." The heavy wooden cross on which he was to suffer, was laid on his shoulders, to carry to the place, and when his strength failed, they made a stranger whom they met carry it. When there, they drove a nail through each hand, then one through his feet, thus nailing Jesus to the cross to die. His enemies were not yet satisfied. They wagged their heads; called him a king; bade him come down from the cross, and then they would believe that he was the Son of God.

“What did Jesus say?”

He said nothing to them; but looking up to heaven, he said, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!” Two thieves were crucified with Jesus—one on each side. One of these thieves joined with the wicked rabble in their railing or mocking Jesus; bidding him prove his power by saving himself and the thieves. But the other poor, dying thief reproved his companion, and then said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” This was the prayer of a dying man, who had been very wicked—he was then suffering for the crimes he had done; but faith in Jesus saved him even then, when he only had time to say, “Lord, remember me.” Jesus gave him this gracious answer, “To-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise.”

While Jesus hung suffering on the cross, he looked with compassion on the sorrowing women and few disciples that were watching his last moments. Among them stood Mary, his *mother*, gazing, oh so mournfully! on

her wonderful son. Jesus looked at her, then at John, his beloved disciple, saying, "Woman, behold thy son," and to John, "Behold thy mother." This was his farewell to his earth-mother; he was going soon to resume his glory in heaven, but he cared for her still, and committed her to the disciple that he "loved;" and John "took her to his own home." It was a token of the confidence his Master felt in him, thus solemnly to give his own mother to his care; and John loved and cared for Mary as a good son.

Men, wicked men, could look at Jesus, bleeding, dying on the cross; but the sun refused to shine, withdrew his light, and for three long hours darkness was over all the earth. The vail of the temple was torn from top to bottom. The solid earth trembled and shook, great rocks were burst asunder, even the graves were opened, and many of the dead got up and walked about the city! Jesus did not come down from the cross, he staid there till he had satisfied all the

claims of justice against fallen, ruined, guilty sinners. Freely he gave his blood to "take away the sins of the world;" bore the scourge, the thorns, the jeers and insults of the enraged soldiers and people, without one word of anguish, for through all this he could still look up and see his Father, well pleased with him as a "beloved Son." But he was yet to suffer one still greater pain. Sinners are far from God. He abhors their guilt; he can not look on them but in displeasure. "God is angry with the wicked every day." Therefore Jesus, the just, and holy one, who knew no sin while making atonement for our *sins*, in order to make the sacrifice complete, must feel his father's displeasure, must, for the first time during all his human life of self-denial, poverty, toil and persecution, suffer from the withdrawal of his Father's loving, approving presence! O! words can not describe, or creatures, such as we, comprehend the depth, the bitterness of that grief, which caused the Son of God who had meekly borne *all* that

man, malignant man could inflict, to cry aloud, "My God! my God! why hast *thou* forsaken me?" O! how can we endure eternal separation from God, with the weight of *His* displeasure, ever crushing us down, down, down, if but a moment's withdrawal of his favor, thus filled the cup of Jesus' suffering so that he could say, "It is finished! it is finished?" Every minute particular written of him by the prophets had been exactly fulfilled. He had rendered perfect obedience to his Father's law; had now paid the mighty price for man's redemption. God could now be just in freely forgiving all who believe in Jesus. Sinners, vile and wretched sinners, might now be reconciled to God and brought near to Him by the merits of this atoning blood. Jesus said, "It is finished." Once more they hear his voice saying, "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit!" And then he died. Those who had followed him out in the morning saying, "Away with him! crucify him!" now returned to their homes weeping; "they smote

on their breast;" even the Roman officer who had to witness the execution, was obliged to say, "Truly this was the Son of God."



THE BURIAL.

WHEN Jesus was dead, a rich man named Joseph—he is also called a just and good man—went to Pilate and begged the body that he might bury it. Pilate gave him leave to take it down after a soldier had thrust a spear into the side to prove that he was really dead. Then Joseph bought some fine linen to wrap the poor wounded body in, and Nicodemus a quantity of myrrh, and Joseph laid it in his own new tomb, which had been dug in the solid rock. He then had a great stone rolled to the door of the tomb, and sadly left it there, he thought, to remain forever. Some of the priests then went to Pilate, and told him that Jesus had said he would rise on the third day, and they wanted him to send a *guard* to watch the grave, lest his disciples should come at night and steal the body and then say he had risen. Pilate let them place a seal on the stone, and set four sol-

diers there to watch the tomb and keep it unopened. Mary Magdalene and another Mary, and some other women followed the men who buried Jesus, and saw the place where their beloved Lord had been laid.



JESUS ALIVE AGAIN.

THE day on which Jesus was crucified was a Friday—the day before the Jewish Sabbath. They kept the Sabbath day very strictly; no work was done, nothing even for the dead. So these kind women rested on the Sabbath, but very early on the first day of the week, as soon as it was light enough, they hastened with the sweet spices and ointment they had bought, to anoint the body, as was the custom. As they went, they wondered among themselves how they should get the stone away, they could not move it. But when they came lo! the stone was away! the grave *was* opened! For a great and mighty angel had come down from heaven; the earth shook and trembled. The soldiers fell on their faces like dead men! Then this angel, bright as the lightning's flash, rolled back the great stone and sat on it. The women were much afraid, but the angel told them

not to fear. He said, "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth; he is not here, he is risen. Go tell his disciples." Then the women left their spices and ran to do as the angel bade them. Mary Magdalen was the first who saw Jesus after he left the grave. She came very early to the place, found the stone taken away, then she ran to tell Peter and John. They all ran back to the tomb, and Peter went in; he saw the linen lying there, and the napkin which had bound his head, but his Master was not there. Peter and John went home greatly astonished at what they saw. But Mary could not go away. She stood there weeping bitterly, and as she wept she looked in the tomb and saw two whiterobed angels sitting there, who asked why she wept. She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where to find him." Then turning round she saw some one; she thought he had taken away the body. This man said, "Woman, why weep-est thou?" But while she told him, O!

what joy! what a glad surprise! The man said, "Mary." Then Mary knew that it was Jesus, and she gladly ran to tell the joyful news!



JESUS APPEARING TO HIS DISCIPLES.

THE women who ran from the tomb to tell the disciples, as the angel whom they saw sitting on the stone had told them, these women saw Jesus. He met them as they went, and said, "All hail!" and they knew that he was indeed their Lord, and they fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But when they told the disciples, and the women who mourned and wept because Jesus was dead, that he was alive—the angels had told them so—they did not believe it true; did not believe Mary who had seen her risen Savior, so hard were they to understand and believe the strange things they saw and heard.

On the same day two of the disciples were going to a village not far from Jerusalem. As they walked they conversed about the sad events of the preceding days; how disappointed they felt, for they had hoped that Jesus was the promised Messiah, who should deliver their nation

from the Romans. While they thus talked, Jesus came near and asked why they seemed so sorrowful. They did not know that it was Jesus, and they told him all that had been done. How their Lord had been killed and buried, and that some women had said that they had seen him alive. Then Jesus said, "Should not Christ have suffered and have entered into his glory." And he explained to them what Moses and all the prophets had written about himself. When they came to Emmaus, the village they were going to, the two men begged Jesus to stop with them that night. And he went in with them, but when they were going to eat, Jesus broke the bread and gave thanks, as he always did. Then they knew it was Jesus their beloved Master. But he was gone! They did not know how, or where he went, but they started immediately back to Jerusalem to tell the others that they had seen Jesus. I do not think they waited to eat supper, or thought of being hungry, or tired either, though they had a long

walk before they could see their friends. When they got back it was night, and the disciples were together in an upper room, talking of Jesus, for they said, "The Lord is alive, Simon has seen him!" Then these two told how Jesus had walked and talked with them. But ere their story was finished, Jesus appeared in their midst. At first they were sadly frightened, for the door had been fastened for fear of the Jews, and they thought it must be a spirit. But Jesus told them not to be afraid; told them to put their hands on him and feel his flesh, and he showed them his hands and feet that had been pierced with nails. He wished them to be sure that he was indeed alive, and he said, "Children have ye any meat?" Then they gave him a piece of fish, and a piece of honey-comb, and they saw him eat. The disciples were *glad* when they knew it was their Lord.

WHAT THOMAS DID.

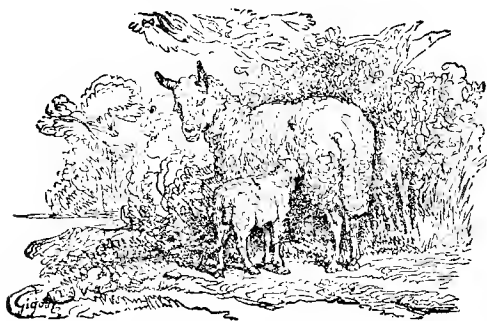
ONE of the disciples, named Thomas, was not with the others that night. And when they told him that Jesus had been with them, he said he would not believe that it was Jesus, unless he could see, and put his fingers in the nail-holes, and in his side where the spear had been thrust. On the next Sunday evening Thomas was with the others in the same place, when Jesus again came in, the door shut as before. Jesus said, "Peace be unto you." Then he bade Thomas reach out his hand and see the holes in his hands, and thrust it into his side. Thomas now knew that it was indeed Jesus, and he said, "My Lord! and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, thou hast believed because thou hast seen: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

THE DISCIPLES IN GALILEE.

THE disciples had been told by the angels to go back to Galilee, and that Jesus would come to them there. Jesus had also told them, before his death, that he would rise on the third day, and would afterward go into Galilee. After they knew he had risen, they went back to wait for him to come. But while they were waiting, Simon said to the others, "I go a fishing." Thomas was with him, and so were James and John, and three more of the disciples, and they all said they would go with him. They went out in the sea in their fishing-boat, but all night they toiled and caught no fish. When it was day, they saw a man standing on the shore, who asked them if they had any meat, and they said No! Then the man told them to cast their net on the right side of the ship and they should find some. They did not know who had told them to do this, but they followed

the directions, and lo, the net was so full and heavy they could not draw it up again. Then John (the disciple that Jesus loved) knew who he was, and told Peter, "It is the Lord." And Peter was so glad he could not wait to row the boat to land, but jumped into the sea and went to him. The others came on in the boat, dragging their net. When they came ashore there was a fire kindled and bread and fish cooking. Jesus bade them bring some of their fish, and Simon drew out the net full of great fishes. Then Jesus said, "Come and dine;" and they all went and once more ate together, as they had often done; but perhaps this was the last time they had the privilege of eating with their beloved Master. After they had dined, Jesus asked Simon if he loved *him* "more than these," and Simon said, "Yea, Lord." Then Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." A second time Jesus asked, "Simon, lovest thou me?" and he answered, "Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus said, "Feed

my sheep." Again Jesus asked the same question, and Simon was grieved, and said, "Lord, thou knowest all things: thou knowest that I love thee." My dear child, can you, like Simon Peter, give this answer? Jesus asks it of all his children, "Lovest thou me?" and when, like him, you dare say, "Lord, thou knowest that I love thee," you may know that you are one

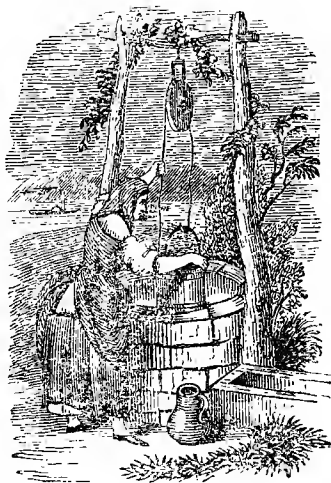


of his *lambs*. "For every one that loveth is born of God."

"Did Jesus say any thing more to Peter?"

Yes; he told him how he should glorify God by his suffering and death. Jesus

gave to all his disciples power to work miracles. He also bade them preach the gospel everywhere; and he gave them wisdom and understanding, that they might know all that the Prophets had written, and how Christ's death and resurrection had been all foretold, and that repentance and remission of sins might now be preached in his name.



JESUS GOING BACK TO HEAVEN.

THE Bible does not tell us much about Jesus after he had risen from the dead, until he returned to heaven. We would be glad to know all that he said to his little company of faithful followers, but there has been enough written to make us wise even unto salvation; and if we are diligent in reading the Bible and praying that we may understand it, God will send his Holy Spirit to teach us his will and guide us safely through life. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus led his disciples and those who believed and followed him about, out to Bethany and to the Mount Olivet, whither he so often went with them. He had shown himself to them at different times and places during these forty days. Now he was going to leave them in the world, while he returned to heaven, to the glory which he had with the Father before the world was made. The disciples did not

know that he was going away then, for, as they walked along, they asked, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus told them they were not to know "times and seasons," which belong only to God; but he bade them stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit should come and endue them with power from on high, and teach them every thing they ought to know. Jesus then gave them this *last* comission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature: he that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned." And "Lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world." Then Jesus lifted up his hands and blessed his disciples; and while he yet blessed them, he was taken up from them, and a eloud received him out of their sight, while he went up to sit at the right hand of God in heaven. The disciples were now without a Master on earth, and they stood gazing earnestly upward where their beloved Lord

had gone. They could not go away from that place. Perhaps they thought he would soon come down and take them too; they would wait and see. But while they stood looking so attentively, two angels in shining robes came near and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven." Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

"Has he ever come back, mamma?"

No, not as he then went up; though the Lord Jesus is ever spiritually present to comfort and bless his people.

"Will he ever come?"

Oh yes; Jesus will come, and not tarry, when the time appointed by the Father has arrived. The first direct prophesy relating to the coming of Christ tells of the second coming. Enoch, the holy man who walked with God, said of him, "Behold he cometh with ten thousand of his saints." All the

prophets who wrote of Jesus, wrote also of his coming to judge the world, and of some other circumstances connected with his second appearing. Jesus frequently spake of it before his death. He describes his coming as the lightning's flash—so sudden, so terrible. He said they should see him coming in power and great glory, and all the angels with him. Then the angels were sent to confirm the hearts of his sorrowing disciples. Many of the disciples were instructed to write of his coming again, after he was taken away. So that we can not doubt his return. Those who do not love him, do not wish him to come, and they will call for the rocks and mountains to fall and hide them from his terrible presence. But all who have loved him, whether living, or asleep in the grave, will joyfully say, "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for him, and he will save us." St. Paul looked for this joyful day; he expected then a "crown of righteousness;" but he said all who loved Jesus' appearing, should also receive

one—a glorious crown—from the Righteous Judge. The closing words of inspiration are, “Surely I come quickly.” Oh thou, with the beloved John, our hearts may ever respond, “Even so, come Lord Jesus.”





